

# Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (A) 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



**Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick:** Winnie Deighan, Margaret McDonald, Giuseppe Frangipane, Willie Scott and for those who are working so hard to care for the sick especially those who work in our hospitals.

**Please Pray For Those Who Have Died Recently:** Mary McGrory (Family Funeral on Monday), George Pearson (Family Funeral on Tuesday), Helen Colquhoun and Margaret McCormack.

**Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now:** Ann and William McAdam, Theresa and Charlotte McMahon, William and Cathie O'Rourke, Lorraine Gaffney, Annie Welsh and for the month's mind of Annie Muggins.

**In The House Porch** there are copies of the Bulletin, Mass Sheets, Standing Order Forms and Gift Aid Declaration Forms.

**Fr. Michael Will Celebrate Mass Alone Each Day** praying for the members of the Parish Community and their intentions. Fr. Michael is still available in emergencies but is observing the Government's advice on social distancing.

**Fr. Michael Will Take Several Minutes Each Day** to reflect on the Scriptures and his Reflections will be available on "St. Conval's Church Linwood" You Tube Channel.

**St. Mirin's Cathedral And Local Parishes** are livestreaming their privately celebrated Masses:  
St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv7uqhl>  
St. Charles', Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/r2gww7a>  
St. Margaret's, Johnstone - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv5wde5>

**Financial Support:** The Parish still requires your financial support to pay our bills so please continue to be generous. Electronic donations can be made to St. Conval's RC Parish Church at The Bank of Scotland, Johnstone Branch Sort Code 80-16-53, Account Number 00356472. Standing Order Forms for each Parish can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone> Please complete the Form, post it in the Parish House and Fr. Michael will forward it to the Bank. Forms also available in the House Porch. Again, thanks to the many who have taken out Standing Orders in favour of the Parish and to those leaving their weekly contributions in an envelope in the House Porch - your financial support is vital and very much appreciated!

**Gift Aid:** Unfortunately, we are presently unable to safely distribute the boxes of envelopes for 2020-2021. However, if you are able to post your donation at the House, please write your existing number or your name and gift aid on the envelope. You may wish to consider making your donation by Standing Order and our Parish's Standing Order Form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone>

If any parishioners would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, Gift Aid Declaration (GAD) Forms are available in the House Porch or can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone> Please complete and sign the GAD Form and post it in the Parish House. Thank you for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme.

**Weekly Parish Bulletin:** Any items for inclusion in the bulletin (including names for the sick, month's mind and anniversary lists) should be put through the letter box of the Parish House or sent by email: [stconval@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stconval@rcdop.org.uk) by **12noon on the Thursday** before publication. Copies of the Bulletin will be available in the House Porch each week as well as online.

## **'Prayer Is What Opens The Door'**

“Prayer is what opens the door to the Spirit and give one this freedom, this boldness, this courage of the Holy Spirit, which one will never know where He will lead one, but it’s the Spirit.”

To be a Christian isn’t only to obey the Commandments: yes, one must do so; this is true. However, if you stop there, you aren’t a good Christian. To be a good Christians is to let the Spirit enter into you and carry you, to carry you where He wills. Many times, in our Christian life we stop, we don’t know what step to take, we don’t know how to do it, or we don’t have trust in God to take this step and let the Spirit enter. To be born anew is to let the Spirit enter me and that it is the Spirit that guides me and one never knows where it will end.

When the Spirit came, the Apostles, who were in the Upper Room, went out to preach with that courage, with that boldness . . . they didn’t know that this would happen, and they did it because the Spirit was guiding them. A Christian must never stop only at complying with the Commandments: yes, he must do so, but he must go beyond, to this new birth, which is birth in the Spirit, which gives one the freedom of the Spirit. It’s what happened to this Christian community of the First Reading, after John and Peter returned from that interrogation they had with the priests. They went to their brothers in this community and referred to all that they had said to the rulers of the priests and the Elders. And when the community heard all this, all of them together, were somewhat scared. And what did they do? They prayed. They didn’t stop at prudential measures. “No, now we do this, we go a bit calmer . . . “No. They pray, so that it is the Spirit that says to them what they must do. They raised their voice to God saying: “Lord!” and they prayed.

This beautiful prayer in a dark moment, in a moment when they must take decisions and don’t know what to do. They want to be born of the Spirit; they open their heart to the Spirit, that He may say it to them. And they ask: “and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness” — they ask for boldness, for the courage not to be afraid — “while thou stretches out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus.” “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.” A second Pentecost happened here.

In face of the difficulties, in face of a closed door, so that they don’t know how to go forward, they go to the Lord, they open their heart and the Spirit comes and gives them what they need and they go out to preach, with courage, and forward. This is to be born of the Spirit; this is not to stop at the “therefore,” at the “therefore” of the things I’ve always done, at the “therefore” of after the Commandments, at the “therefore” after the religious habits: no! This is to be born again. And how does one prepare to be born again? With prayer — prayer is what opens the door to the Spirit and give one this freedom, this boldness, this courage of the Holy Spirit, which one will never know where He will lead us, but it’s the Spirit that does this, the Spirit that comes to us in the openness of Prayer.